

URBAN DISTRICT OF
WINDERMERE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1938

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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WINDERMERE.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Windermere.

Sir and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the Health of the Urban District for the year 1938.

The arrangement of the same is similar to that of the previous year and is compiled in accordance with the Ministry of Health's communication of October 25th, 1938.

Except where any changes have occurred in the matter of Nursing in the Home, Hospital accommodation, Ambulance facilities and the establishment of new Clinics and Treatment Centres, the general details have been omitted.

The proper provision of accommodation for the isolation and nursing of infectious diseases on modern lines is still in abeyance.

The following important legislation has come into force during the year, notably the Factory Act and the Hydrogen Cyanide (Fumigation) Act, both of which received the royal assent in the previous year.

A new Food and Drugs Act and a Young Persons (Employment) Act have received Parliamentary sanction, but do not come into force until the following year.

The organisation of the Casualty Services (First Aid Posts, Points and Parties) in connection with the A.R.P. scheme has thrown a considerable amount of extra work on this Department; a satisfactory scheme is rapidly nearing completion.

My work is not only rendered easier and pleasanter but more efficient through the kindly co-operation of your Officials, and especially for that received from your Sanitary Inspector.

I am very grateful to the Medical Profession for its willingness to afford me its services and advice and for courtesy in assuring harmonious working between the various branches of Private and Public medicines.

To one and all I tender my sincerest thanks.

I have the honour to be,

Sir and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. BARON COCKILL,

Medical Officer of Health.

25th May, 1939.

STAFF.

Name.	Qualifications.	Office.	Whole or Part Time.	Other Offices.
W. B. Cockill	M.D., etc. D.P.H.	M.O.H.	Part.	M.O.H. Westmorland Combined Districts.
F. C. Needham	M.R. San. I.	Sanitary Inspector.	Part.	Surveyor.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year ending December 31st, 1938.

Area (acres)	9,732
Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population, mid 1938	...	...	...	...	5,876
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to rate books	...	...	...	...	1,741
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£69,596
Sum represented by Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£278 2s. 0d.

Windermere is a pleasure and holiday resort with large Hotels, Boarding Houses and Schools. There are few industries, the chief of which are:—

Cake and Sweetmeat Factory.
Iron Works.
Woodworking.
Building and Allied Trades.
Launches and Boat Building.

None of these have any particular influence on Public Health.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total.	M.	F.
Live Births (Legitimate)	... 63	36	27
(Illegitimate)	... 4	3	1

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 11.4.
Birth Rate, England and Wales, 15.1.

Still Births	... 1	1	0
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 14.7.			

	Total.	M.	F.
Deaths	... 82	37	45
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...	13.95
Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...	11.16
Death Rate, England and Wales	...	...	11.6

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:—

			Rate per 1,000 total (live and Deaths. still) births.
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	Nil. —
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	1 14.7
Total	...	...	1 14.7

Maternal Mortality Rate, England and Wales ... 2.97

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 total live births	...	45
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	... ..	48
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	... ..	Nil.
Infantile Death Rate, England and Wales	...	53

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	18
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	Nil.
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	Nil.
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	Nil.

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year, nor has there been any noteworthy cause of sickness or invalidity in the District; neither occupation nor environment have had any prejudicial effect on health.

The School Medical Officer of Health does not consider that unemployment has had any significant influence on the health or physique of the children, nor is there any direct evidence that adults have been seriously affected from the same cause.

Deaths were registered from the following causes:—

Disease.	M.	F	Total.
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ..	1	1	2
Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	1	—	1
Cancer. Malignant Disease ..	8	10	18
Diabetes	1	1	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1	2	3
Heart Disease	13	14	27
Other circulatory diseases ..	1	1	2
/ Bronchitis	—	1	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	2	3	5
Other respiratory diseases	—	1	1
Peptic Ulcer	1	1	2
Other digestive diseases	1	—	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis ..	2	—	2
Other Puerperal Causes	—	1	1
Congenital Debility. Prematurity. Malformations etc. ..	—	1	1
Senility	—	2	2
Other violence	1	4	5
Other defined diseases	4	2	6

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

There was no change during the first ten months of the year, but for the latter two months a good deal of the work previously carried out at the Combined Sanitary Districts Laboratory at Kendal was transferred to the Cumberland Pathological Laboratory, Carlisle.

Ambulance Facilities.

Non-infectious cases are most satisfactorily dealt with by a Motor Ambulance supplied and manned by the Windermere Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

Infectious cases are removed by the Urban Council's horse-drawn vehicle.

Nursing in the Home.

There is no change in these arrangements.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

No new Clinics or Treatment Centres have been established.

Hospitals.

There has been no change in either the public or voluntary hospital services.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**Water.**

No new sources of Water Supply have been tapped.

Approximately 352 yards of new 3in. main have been laid.

Two samples of water were analysed, one from a private source and one from a public main. The private supply was condemned. The analysis of the public supply was quite satisfactory.

The existing supplies are very satisfactory, both in quality and quantity.

No contamination of the existing supplies has occurred.

Drainage and Sewerage.

No extension of Sewerage has been made.

All the sewers in the District are periodically examined.

The Sewage Disposal Works at Tower Wood are in excellent condition.

Rivers and Streams.

No pollution has occurred, therefore no action has been necessary.

Closet Accommodation.

The number of various types of closets in the District is as follows:—

W.C.'s—Washdown	...	...	2882
Autoflushed	...	...	21
Privies	...	...	70
Pail Closets	...	...	17
			<hr/>
			2990
			<hr/>

Public Cleansing.

The method of collection is by a properly constructed Mechanical Vehicle.

The number of tons of refuse collected was 2,660.

The disposal of dry household refuse is by controlled tipping, and no nuisance has arisen.

The disposal of the contents of Earth Closets, Privies and Cesspools is by spreading suitably on farm lands in such a manner as to cause no nuisance.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The following Inspections have been carried out:—

Premises Visited.	No. of Inspections.
Factories (Gas and Electric Works) ...	... 12
„ (including Workshop Laundries) ...	... 9
Workplaces ...	... 12
Slaughterhouses ...	... 188
Cowsheds ...	... 81
Butchers' and Fishmongers' Shops ...	... 138
Private Schools ...	... 5
Elementary Schools ...	... 5
Dwelling-houses ...	... 228
Hotels ...	... 30
	<hr/>
	708

The following Sanitary Work has also been carried out:—

Drains relieved	...	...	9
Cesspools emptied	...	...	5
New Drains tested	...	...	25
Old Drains tested	...	...	12
Cesspools abolished	...	...	1

Fifteen Informal Notices have been served and the matters complained of remedied.

Shops and Offices.

No action has been necessary with regard to ventilation or temperature.

Camping Sites.

Number of sites used for camping purposes in 1938	...	2
Number of sites for which licences were issued in 1938	...	1
Estimated number of campers resident in the Area at one time during the summer season, 1938	...	300

The unlicensed Camp, Green Farm, was open for the period allowed by Statute, and a licence was not therefore necessary.

Smoke Abatement.

The District has been free from complaints.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no Public or Privately owned swimming baths open to the public in this District.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No action has been necessary under this heading.

Schools.

The Sanitary condition of and water supplies to all Schools (Private and Elementary) are satisfactory.

There has been no necessity for closure on account of infectious disease.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(1) By the Local Authority	...	...	Nil
(2) By other bodies or persons	...	...	9
1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—			
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	201
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	228
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...		Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...		Nil
2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notice:—			
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...		6
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year	...		Nil
4. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.			
(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	2
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	...		2
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	...		11½
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	Nil
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	1
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases			4½

- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding Nil
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ... Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

There have been 81 inspections of cowsheds, and 25 inspections of farms and dairies.

19 samples of milk have been taken on behalf of the Westmorland County Council and tested for cleanliness and tubercle bacilli: 6 passed both Methylene Blue and B. Coli tests; 3 the B. Coli test but not the Methylene Blue; 2 showed the presence of B. Coli in 2 tubes and 8 in 3 tubes; these results indicate that 6 samples were quite satisfactory and 8 far from it, the remainder occupying positions between these two extremes.

On the whole, however, this year's results show an improvement, though there is plenty of room for still more.

Meat and Other Foods.

Inspections of Slaughterhouses, Bakehouses, Shops and Vehicles have been regularly carried out, and there has been no cause for complaint.

No Meat Marketing Scheme is in force.

Adulteration, etc., and Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority, and this work is carried out by Mr. C. J. H. Stock, County Analyst, Darlington.

Milk samples for cleanliness and tubercle bacilli are submitted to the Pathologist at Cumberland Pathological Laboratory, Carlisle.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle ex- cluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	—	—	—	—	—
Number inspected ..	247	—	14	1226	47
All diseases except Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—
Whole carcasses con- demned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ..	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only :— Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with Tuberculosis ..	—	—	—	—	—

Health Education.

There is a considerable amount of dissemination of knowledge relating to health and disease through the Women's Institutes and through health talks at the Schools by the School Medical Officers.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifiable diseases were few in number.

There were 6 cases of Scarlet Fever; two of these occurred in a private school, one of them infecting the other, and were isolated in their own Sanatorium; the other four cases were isolated in Hospital and were in no way connected as to time of year or place of schooling; one was an adult.

There was one case of Paratyphoid in an adult who had been having a holiday and visited a number of places in the previous few weeks; no trace of the origin of this disease could be discovered.

An adult developed Poliomyelitis towards the end of the year, but no causal relationship could be found.

Two Pneumonias and one Erysipelas complete the list of notifications.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is issued free for the treatment of all necessitous cases, excepting patients under the National Health Insurance Act; also for both necessitous and insured persons for prophylactic purposes. The Council very wisely is prepared to supply the necessary facilities for artificial immunisation against Diphtheria, but so far no advantage has been taken of the same.

The notification of diseases under the Regulations of 19th of October, 1927, have not been of any use. There seems to be scope here for effective economy with no detriment to Public Health.

Hospital accommodation for Scarlet Fever is always available at the Isolation Hospital, Windermere, so there is no need to shorten the stay of any patient in Hospital. No provision is made for the admission of Measles, Whooping Cough, etc. Patients suffering from other diseases are treated at the Kendal Isolation Hospital.

The County Council has had under consideration for the past few years the whole of the Isolation Hospital question for the County; various schemes have been put forward, but so far there has been no definite decision.

The following bacteriological investigations have been carried out:—

Diphtheria	...	...	14
Typhoid	...	...	6
Organisms	...	...	1
			—
			21
			—

A close liaison exists with the School Medical Officers, and thus school notifications are always available and utilised where necessary.

No facilities exist for disinfestation. Disinfection with formalin is carried out after all infectious cases, and bedding, clothing, etc., is disinfected where necessary in the steam disinfector at the Isolation Hospital.

Arrangements have been made between the Westmorland County Hospital and the Manchester Radium Institute for the treatment of cases of malignant disease by radium when so required.

No action has been taken under section 66 of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1925, with regard to prevention or treatment of blindness.

There were no cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DISEASES.	Totals.	Ages.												Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths
		-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-		
Scarlet Fever ..	6	—	—	—	1	1	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	4	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Pneumonia ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
TOTAL ..	11	—	—	—	1	1	1	2	1	3	—	2	—	6	—

TUBERCULOSIS TABLE.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	—	1	1	1	1	1	—

The incidence of Tuberculosis was small—one case each of pulmonary and non-pulmonary were notified, the latter of whom had already developed the disease prior to coming to reside in Windermere and one case of non-pulmonary which was not notified but whose death revealed the presence of the disease; there were two deaths from pulmonary disease in persons notified in previous years.

No cases occurred in a person who was unemployed.

No action has been necessary under Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, nor under Section 62, Public Health Act, 1925.

The administration of Tuberculosis, Venereal Disease and Maternity and Child Welfare is under the County Council.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

		Inspections.	Notices.
Factories	...	12	—
Workshops	...	9	—
Workplaces	...	12	—
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		33	—
		<hr/>	<hr/>

